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Dated: April 28, 2003

Signature:

Richard H. Anderson
(Richard H. Anderson)

Docket No.: 27611/36440A
(PATENT)

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Michael J. McNallan, et al

Application No.: 09/838458

Group Art Unit: 3682

Filed: April 19, 2001

Examiner: J. Howard

For: A PROCESS FOR CONVERTING A METAL
CARBIDE TO DIAMOND BY ETCHING IN
HALOGENS

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GROUP 3600

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

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In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed March 26, 2003 (Paper No. 5), applicants hereby elect the invention represented by the claim of Group III (claims 16-23), with traverse, for prosecution on the merits at this time.

It is submitted that the process of manufacturing (Groups I, II and IV - claims 1-15 and 24) also should be examined in this application since these claims are not drawn, per se, to a method of etching, but to the method of manufacturing a substrate (e.g., bearing or prosthesis) having a diamond or diamond and carbon surface. Since the method and articles produced require the same process conditions, it is submitted that all claims 1-24 should be examined herein.

Reconsideration of the restriction requirements is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner is aware of another method to make the product as claimed, using a process which is materially different from that set forth in the restricted claims, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to substantiate his position in greater detail.

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Otherwise, it is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement be withdrawn, and that each of claims 16-23 presently pending in this application be examined.

Dated: April 28, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By Richard H. Anderson

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